(percentage)

Washery	1992-93	1993-94
Dugda	23.2	20.50
Bhojudih	20.6	19.00
Patherdih	22.7	21.50
Sudamih	20.1	19.00
Moonidih	19.0	18.00
Lodna	22.8	21.50
Barora	20.4	19.00
Mohuda	18.2	17.50
Kargali	20.7	18.25
Kathara	19.4	18.25
Swang	19.5	18.25
Gidi	20.2	18.25
Rajrappa	20.3	17.75
Nandan	19.2	17.50
Average for the year	20.87	18.78

Modernisation of some of the old existing washeries is in progress to ensure supply of washed coking coal of stipulated quality to steel plants. Moreover, setting up of washing capacity of Low Volatile Medium Coking Coal and increasing the Coking Coal availability are also under implementation by CIL. Besides all new coking coal washeries under construction and that those planned are designed to meet the qualitative requirement of the steel plants.

Non-coking coals with high ash content are used in India for generation of power. The modern coal combustion equipment can effectively and efficiently utilise these coals. However, use of beneficiated non-coking coal in distant power stations has been accepted.

For beneficiation of non-coking coal, construction of two washeries with a total capacity of 11 m.t. is in progress. Action has also been initiated to set up more such plants in private sector under 'Build-Own-Operate' scheme.

Fire Zone in Jharia

1740. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether with the mine fire incidents in the Jharia Coalfields, the exclusive producers of high coking coal, any study has been made to identify the "fire zone";

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what strategy has been formulated by Government to monitor fire movements in the areas/region affected by mine fires for the purpose of planning timely fire fighting operations to minimise fire impact ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) Since the first recorded occurrence of fire in Jharia Coalfield of Bihar in 1916, existence of 70 fires covering an area of 17.32 sq. kms. has been reported.

As a result of concerted efforts made by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), five fires have been extinguished and further spread of six fires has been controlled.

A study by the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad, has been undertaken for development of a methodology for thermal mapping on mine fires areas in Jharia Coalfield using remote sensing technology.

With the objective of finding a long term solution to the problem of Jharia Coalfield fires, a detailed diagnostic study has been undertaken under the Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance Project for which World Bank assistance of US $ 12.00 million has been approved. Work on the study is in progress.

Ownership of land belonging to B.C.C.L.

1741. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Plot No. 177 of Lodna Mouza belonged to Shalimar Tar Products and not to Lodna Coal Company and thus denying the ownership of the factory for Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (B.C.C.L.), and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that now it has been found that the said land belongs to Lodna Coal Company and thus got vested in B.C.C.L., and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that as per the nationalisation article, any structure, office buildings situated on the land of BCCL got vested with the company becoming a part of the national property and if so, steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) According to information available now, M/s. Lodna Colliery Co. Ltd. and M/s. Shalimar Tar Products Ltd. were two separate companies under the same managing agent, M/s. Turner Morrison & Co. Ltd. However, Plot No. 177 in Mouza Lodna on which the plant of M/s. Shalimar Tar Products Ltd. was located is recorded in the name of Lodna Colliery Co. Ltd.

(c) According to Section 3 of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, on the appointed day, the right, title and interest of the owners in relation to the coal mines specified in the schedule stood transferred

to and vested absolutely in the Central Government free from all encumbrances. The term 'mine' has also been defined in the Act.

CIL Mines in Bihar

1742. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mines, areas of blocks located in the State of Bihar belonging to various subsidiaries of Coal India Limited, details subsidiary and name-wise may be given;

(b) what is the total lease hold area involved in the above stated mines, areas or blocks; details for each subsidiary, name-wise may be given; and

(c) what is the proved/indicated/inferred coal reserve in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) According to Coal India Ltd., the subsidiary-wise details of coal mines being worked by them, located in the State of Bihar, are as under:—

Name of Company	No. of mines in Bihar
1. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. .	93
2. Central Coalfields Ltd. . .	72
3. Estern Coalfields Ltd. . .	20

The names of these mines are being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

Details regarding total leasehold area and proved/indicated/inferred reserves in all these mines would be too voluminous and are not readily available. It is felt that time and effort required in collecting and compiling this information may not be commensurate with the purpose sought to be achieved

Abolition of Coal Board

1743. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what was the logic and justification behind abolition of the then Coal Board constituted under Coal Mines Safety and Conservation Act since 50's;

(b) what was the reason for changing categorization of coal after abolition of Coal Board;

(c) whether it is a fact that Coal Board was an obstacle being an independent statutory body in the way of nationalised coal sector to produce easily inferior variety of coal from the open cast coal mines; and

(d) when the Coal Board was in existence coal containing ash beyond 35% was being treated as non-vendable coal and what is the scientific reason for the change in categorization by treating carbonization material containing 55% as coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The constitution of Coal Board was under the Coal Mines (Conservation, Safety and Development) Act, 1952 which was enacted when the coal industry was almost entirely in the private sector. Since nationalisation of coal mines it was felt that in the changed context the responsibility for effecting conservation of coal resources and other connected functions of Coal Board can be entrusted to the public sector undertakings which have been formed to work the nationalised coal mines.

(b) The conservation of valuable natural energy resources like coal was the main consideration taken into account in the present grading system.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The consumption profile of coal has undergone vast changes over the last two decades. Earlier, the design of combustion equipment was such that only coals with high heat value could be utilised. With the emergence of Pulverised Firing of coal particularly in the thermal power station boilers, it has become possible to utilise coals with high ash content with high thermal efficiency. The modern coal combustion equipment particularly the power station boilers can handle coals with high ash content without any serious problem. The environmental pollution arises mainly from the 'fly ash' produced when the coal is burnt. This problem can be considerably reduced by using beneficiated coal.

Amount Spent on Construction of Koyla Bhavan

1744. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what amount has been spent on the construction of Koyla Bhavan and the Koyla Nagar complex till 31st March, 1994, facts in details;

(b) the amount spent in buying one additional aeroplane by CIL; and

(c) what is the justification for such extravagance when there is paucity of funds for development of mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) According to Coal India Ltd. (CIL) the amount spent on construc-